Oct. 12 '35

Deity

Oct. 10, 1948

THE DEITY OF CHRIST.

Jn.10:30 I and my Father are one.
20:28 Thomas answered and said unto him, "My Lord and my God."

INTRO. Fully aware of my inability of explai n-ing doctrine of the Deity of X, also of the danger involved in trying to do so. No attempt to explain it fully, but simply to present such an angle on it as we hope will help you the more clearly interpret your own experiences.

I. What it means to believe in the Deity of X,

a, The doctrine itself but an attempted explan tion of an experience, By it the theologia n points out how God in Jesus Christ has fully and adequately revealed himself.
The doctrine is not an end in itself but a means to an end.

b. In Jesus we see, more than in any other way what God is like, and what God is doing, and what God desires to do in and thru each one of us.
The righteousness and good ness and mercy and love of God are given a richer and fuller significance in Jesus Christ.
In Christ all division between sacred and secular breaks down. God uses all of life for his purposes. God is in nature ~~and in history~~ sustaining and ministering unto man according to his needs. God is in history directing and fashioning his children of earth to make them citizens in his kingdom. God is in the human soul as a vitalizing and transforming influenc e.

c, This understanding of God in Jesus must be experienced to be understood and apprecia ted,

Dr.Este's experience of God.

"He that willeth to do God's will shall know of the doctrine."

II. The Two Ways of regarding God's presence in Jesus.

a. The view held by my father and Pitman- the whole of God was in Christ.

They also explained the supernatural as an extraordinary intervention of God which sets aside the natural order and stands out in marked contrast with all the precedes and and follows it.

b. The other way of regarding God in Christ.

There is a quality in all nature which makes us realize that there is more to nature than the natural itself, that God is in it and and back of it. In like manner in Jesus we see a quality of character and personality that reveals the presence of God.

Jesus is not a container and God a substacne the whole of which can be placed in the container. Jesus is like a ray from the Sun revealing the light of the sun.

According to this view the supernatural is not some extraordinary intervention of the natural on God's part, but a manifestation of God in all the processes of nature, revealing itself with special clearness at certain times and places. It is the recognition of God's spiritual law in the natural world.

c. The first way of regarding the person of Jesu separates him from all other men both actual and possible, emphasizing his virgin birth, his power over nature, his resurrection and his ascension into heaven.

The second way that group of facts ~~is emphasized~~ which show Jesus to be the supreme influence of God to make men what they ought t to be.

Both of these views of the deity of Jesus are held by Xns who are loyal and faithful to Him. The real test of our loyalty to Jesus is not in the way we concieve him in his relation to God, but in our personal attitude towards Christ. "Not ever one that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord', shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven." They who take Jesus for their Masterand shape their lives ~~in conformity with~~ according to his ideals prove more than all the formulated creeds of Christendom that Jesus is what the Church claims him to be.